

Lithium Ion Battery Safety

for Consumers



Lithium ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, scooters, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. Take care when using them. In rare cases, they can cause a fire or explosion.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed or on a couch.
- Keep batteries at room temperature.
- Do not place batteries in direct sunlight or keep them in hot vehicles.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

High-Tech Luggage

Some major airlines no longer accept 'smart' luggage with non-removable lithium ion batteries as checked or carry-on luggage. The powerful batteries can potentially overheat and pose a fire hazard during flight.

In some instances, smart bags with removable lithium ion batteries will be allowed on board if the battery can be removed on site and taken on board with the customer. Check with your airline for restrictions.



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Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Tips



Lithium-ion batteries play an important part in everyday life and have become the industry standard for rechargeable batteries that are common in many home electronics. When lithium-ion batteries overheat, are used the wrong way, or are defective, they are prone to explosions which can result in injuries and fires.

Use these safety tips from the RPV Emergency Preparedness Committee to help avoid lithium-ion battery injuries:

- Only use batteries that are designed for the device in use. Check the manual or the manufacturer website the size and type of batteries to use.
- Avoid charging your device around flammable materials, such as a bed, couch or on paper.
- Charge your device with the power cord that came with it.
- Never keep li-ion batteries near heat sources or in high temperatures, such as direct sunlight, radiators or laptops.
- If you notice signs that the battery has a problem, such as overheating, odor, leaks, bulging, or change in color/shape, shut off the device and move it away from anything that can catch on fire.
- Never throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash. This causes pollution and can be a fire hazard. Used lithium-ion batteries should be taken to a battery recycling location, hazardous waste roundup, or contact your local waste management service provider for disposal instructions.

For additional information and resources please contact Jesse Villalpando, Emergency Services Coordinator at Jvillalpando@rpvca.gov or (310) 544-5209.